

(Dr. Bancroft)
With the Author's best respects

AN ANSWER

TO

MR. HIGHMORE'S OBJECTIONS

TO THE

BILL BEFORE PARLIAMENT

TO PREVENT THE SPREADING OF THE INFECTION OF THE

SMALL POX;

WITH

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

SOME INTERESTING COMMUNICATIONS FROM FOREIGN MEDICAL
PRACTITIONERS, ON THE PROGRESS AND EFFICACY OF

VACCINE INOCULATION.

BY CHARLES MURRAY.

SALUS POPULI—SUPREMA LEX.

"All the days wherein the Plague shall be in him he shall be
defiled; he is unclean: *he shall dwell alone; without the camp*
shall his habitation be." LEVITICUS, ch. xiii. v. 46.

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AN ANSWER, &c.

A LONG and continued habit of reflection upon the enormous mischiefs, resulting to Society from the indiscriminate Inoculation of the Small-pox, and the great carelessness with which that fatal malady is disseminated by an unrestrained intercourse, has enabled me to assert, that the present times do not afford any similar instance of apathy and disregard to the existence, the health, and the comfort, of our fellow creatures. There are several causes combining to occasion this: but the chief, I apprehend, is the very means afforded us of lessening the malignity of the distemper by the prac-

tice of Inoculation, introduced nearly a century ago. All the higher ranks, and the principal part of the middling classes of the community, have long resorted to this practice; and, having received protection for themselves and their own infants, by this comparatively mild species of Inoculation, they have never felt, and thus have too generally overlooked, the still more dreadful havoc made by these means, among the lower orders, where various prejudices against the general adoption of it continued to act with tenfold strength.

While religious scruples, habitual delay, and many other causes, have continued to prevent great numbers from resorting to Inoculation; instances must daily occur, and have been repeatedly proved to occur, where one inoculated infant has contaminated a whole neighbourhood; and visiting with an artificial contagion those who were unprotected, numbers have fallen victims to the security of a single individual.

I most willingly admit that the Inoculation of the Small Pox was a valuable discovery; but I have ever lamented that the popularity which attended the practice, when

it became pretty generally established, should have completely suppressed all considerations as to its mischievous effects, if not properly directed and restrained.

For these reasons, I was glad at last to find an attempt made, not only to rouse the public attention to the subject, but to provide, by the Act of Parliament brought into the House during the last session, against those deplorable evils which have ensued from Variolous Inoculation, and the unlimited exposure of patients in the worst stages of the disorder in every street, court, and alley, in the metropolis and other populous towns: and, with such impressions, I had hoped to see the co-operation of every person who regards the welfare of his country, towards perfecting this measure of precaution against a disease so highly contagious.

Mr. Highmore, however, in the form of an Address to the Committee of the House of Commons for conducting the above Act through the House, has thought fit to enter his protest against this Bill; and for the reasons which he offers, intimates a desire that they should “abandon, or at least sus-

pend its further progress." Differing therefore, as I do, most essentially, from Mr. Highmore upon this subject, I have thought it my duty to state what appear to me sufficient reasons, why this measure should be persisted in until it is finally accomplished.

As many of Mr. Highmore's objections appear to be founded upon the provisions of the Bill as it now stands, I think it right to remark, that, although it is said to be amended by the Committee, this I believe was a mere matter of form, in order that it might be printed, and distributed among the Members of the House. The Bill is therefore open to correction, wherever it may be found inadequate to the purposes for which it was intended.

In all new plans, formed to correct an evil of great magnitude and long standing, like the present, many difficulties must occur. This, however, does not lessen the merit of those by whom they are introduced; and if some enactments of the Bill in question may appear objectionable in its present shape, (and I admit that it is capable of much improvement) this cannot controvert the *principle* upon which it is framed, and

ought not at all to impede the adoption of the measure. As to the nature of the proceeding itself, that there is no novelty in it, the statutes and ancient writs for preventing intercourse with persons infected with the Plague and Leprosy, the numerous legislative and highly penal provisions respecting Quarantine; and above all the continued enforcement of our Law maxim "*sic utere tuo ut alienum non lædas*," sufficiently prove. But, while this regard to the welfare of the state, and the safety of individuals, has been manifested in these instances, the Small Pox, that insatiable monster, has for ages, and more particularly since the introduction of Inoculation, been most unaccountably permitted to range abroad, uncontrouled and uninterrupted. Why then should we follow Mr. Highmore's request, and "abandon," or for a moment "suspend," any measure calculated to mitigate, at least, if not to crush this evil?

I shall not enter into any minute examination of Mr. Highmore's objections to the particular clauses of this Bill, as it now stands before the public; because it would be to waste the reader's time upon points

which must be subject to numerous modifications, in its different stages: but, having been in the House of Commons when it was proposed, and heard the observations of the Honourable Member, who, from the most philanthropic motives, introduced this Act, I think it right to state, that he declared his opinion, that the Bill was capable of improvement, and expressed a wish to receive any suggestion for that purpose, during its future progress through the House.

Here is no wish, therefore, to force any enactments upon the Country, which are not first duly and deliberately considered.

Mr. Highmore, however, thinks the Bill objectionable, because it no where appears why the Legislature should so anxiously interfere in regard to the Small Pox, and yet remain silent as to any regulations respecting the Scarlet Fever, Measles, or Hooping Cough, which he asserts to be "*equally contagious*, and sometimes prove as dangerous and fatal as the Small Pox."

Now I confess, although I cannot see why the Legislature should not be anxious to check the progress of these latter diseases; yet I know no reason why, because they

omit to provide against them, they should also suffer the other and much greater pest to rage with unchecked fury.

Upon what estimate the comparative malignity and fatality of the Small Pox and the other diseases is formed, I am at a loss to conceive; but I believe that any Medical Practitioner of experience could in one moment convince Mr. H. that for ONE death by all these disorders put together, there are at least TWENTY by the operation of the Small Pox. However contagious the Scarlet Fever may be, many thousand adults in this great City have yet escaped it: whereas it has been asserted again and again by Medical writers, that hardly any person, in populous towns, reaches the age of twenty, without coming within the range of Small Pox, and being infected by it.

But, independently of this error, as to the contagious nature of these diseases, I am surprized that Mr. Highmore should have forgotten, that the Scarlet Fever, and the Measles *, or the Hooping Cough, are never propagated by means of *Inoculation*.

* I believe some endeavours to inoculate the Measles have been made, but without success.

It has been incontestably proved, that great as the benefits of variolous Inoculation may have been to individuals, it has in the aggregate produced the most mischievous consequences, by greatly increasing the mortality within the last century. This, therefore, is an essential ingredient in the considerations, which gave rise to the proposed Act to prevent the spreading of the Small Pox; and it is singular that it should be thus passed over by a Gentleman, who holds an official situation in a Society, where indiscriminate Inoculations were carried on to a new and unheard-of extent, until the good sense and humanity of the Governors very lately interdicted them.

I cannot better illustrate the propriety of Parliamentary regulations respecting the Small Pox, than by referring to the other diseases, enlisted by Mr. Highmore into his service; and I would ask, whether, if some experimental inquirer should happily discover that the Scarlet Fever, or the Measles, could be communicated by Inoculation, and thus be mitigated, would Mr. Highmore protest also against an Act of Parliament to prevent these shocking diseases from being

brought to his very threshold by some of these inoculated Patients? Or, would he, or any one else, regret any Bill, which should go to restrain these flying battalions of Contagion, from mixing with the extensive “manufactories, breweries, schools, servitude of all denominations, and the numerous classes of laborious industry*,” mentioned by him as likely hereafter to suffer from Small Pox infection, if the Inoculation of that disease be interdicted.

Mr. Highmore’s asserted “right of judgment,” in the Inoculation of Small Pox, would apply with equal force to such a preventive of the other diseases; and if he is not prepared to admit the legality and fairness of thus multiplying those infectious distem-

* Mr. Highmore also includes the “Army and Navy” in this catalogue of subjects for future infection from Small Pox; but I have ventured to omit them, because I know that in both these services there are general orders, from the War-Office and Admiralty, to practise *Vaccination only*; and I believe that the Inoculation of Small Pox among the troops and seamen is entirely, and most wisely, prohibited. As to this valuable class of men, therefore, Mr. H. has no cause for apprehension; these matters being much better managed in the Army and Navy.

pers among the great mass of the community, by alleviating them as to a few individuals, how can he object to the present measure of precaution, now before Parliament, with regard to a pestilence, so destructive, that the majority of authors who have made calculations of its ravages, conclude that for ages past, it has cut off a *tenth* of the human species?

Indeed Mr. H. himself furnishes a strong argument for some restrictive law respecting the Small Pox, when he enlarges upon the “anxiety and confusion created in any family, particularly if it be poor and industrious, whenever this contagion invades them;” and yet in how many hundred instances the houses of “the poor and industrious” have been invaded, by means of the immense numbers inoculated within the last three years, at the Small Pox Hospital, a very little enquiry, compared with the records of that Charity, would easily convince Mr. H.*

* In the Physicians’ Report of Diseases at the Public Dispensary, Carey-street, Nov. 30, 1807, it is stated, that in a court adjoining Shoe-lane (Plum-tree Court) TWENTY-EIGHT persons had died of the Small Pox in ONE MONTH. A respectable surgeon in Holborn

No man is a greater advocate for “ the right of private judgment ” than myself, but it is in that qualified way, in which alone it ought to be allowed ; that is, where the exercise of it can in no wise operate to the injury of others. If my house had been long visited by an infectious Fever, difficult to eradicate, private judgment might dictate to me the necessity and propriety of rooting out the

about the same time, writing on the above shocking affair, says, “ I find in general that the contagion is brought from this Hospital,” that is, the Small Pox Hospital. Now I ask Mr. Highmore to refer to the books of that Charity, and to ascertain whether some persons in Plum-tree Court, or the immediate neighbourhood, were not inoculated at his Hospital at the above period. Mr. Matthias, a Surgeon at Somers-town, also states, that during the last Winter SEVEN persons who lodged near the Small Pox Hospital, caught the disease, and ALL DIED.

In 1804, the child of a Butcher in Brooks Market, inoculated at the Small Pox Hospital, infected great numbers, of whom many died. This occurred under my own observation.

In addition to these, I will quote one instance more from Dr. Willan, who mentions a case where, in a court consisting of about twenty houses, ONE inoculated child communicated the disease to SEVENTEEN others, and EIGHT of them DIED. (See Reports on the Diseases in London.)

contagion, by setting fire to my dwelling, without regard to the safety or the feelings of the neighbourhood; but in the event of their suffering injury by this act, I believe the Law would not be so complaisant, as to pass over this exercise of my rights without some judicial correction. Is he less culpable then, who with the design of protecting one infant from the Small Pox, and that at the risk of its life, compels it to become the instrument of death, of everlasting blindness, or entailed diseases to numerous others, whose parents may not have thought fit to exercise the same "right of private judgment?" Away with these inconsistent doctrines! It fills one with horror to reflect on the thousands that are thus yearly sacrificed to prejudice and misconception.

Mr. H. however, in order to place the inoculation of Small Pox in a favourable point of view, after stating that One in Six dies of the natural Small Pox, makes the most extraordinary assertion, that not more than *one in one thousand* die by Inoculation. Now, upon a general average, I will venture to assert, that this computation is most extravagantly below the real amount;

as the most eminent of the Medical Profession have never placed this mortality lower than One in Three Hundred; and it was stated in evidence before the House of Commons that it might be computed at one in every hundred, particularly in this crowded metropolis. But, granted that these deaths were not one in a Million by the inoculated disease, this would not lessen the force of the objection to it, as a means of cherishing and spreading the infection among others.

The Bill does not prohibit the Medical Practitioners from inoculating the Small Pox; but if it were so, would not the same arguments justify this prohibition? Mr. H. must know that many of the most respectable of that profession, are warm advocates for the absolute restriction of Inoculation, and have uniformly, since the discovery of a far better preventive of Variolous Contagion, abstained from this practice at the risk of considerable pecuniary loss. One such instance is worth ten thousand arguments that I could urge in favour of the new Bill. Why they have thus sacrificed their interests to their humanity is obvious. They have felt like *men*; and, regarding the

safety of the rising generation, have conceived it immoral to force upon them a mortal poison, endangering the subject, and, still more, disseminating an indefinite portion of the most malignant infection; when at the same time we are in possession of so admirable and safe a substitute.

Mr. Highmore argues, that the prohibition of Inoculation will, ere long, furnish a wider field for the destructive ravages of the Small Pox, and thus increase the contagion, by increasing the numbers who will become subject to it; and hence he infers, that it would be more wise and just, to allow all those, who choose to adopt Variolous Inoculation, to resort to that practice. This is as much as to say, “that you shall continue to engender and circulate a mortal and highly contagious disorder, and go on slaughtering for ever, lest it should gradually become extinct for a time, with the very small probability of its one day bursting forth again, and attacking those who were thus prevented from adopting it.” If this be Mr. H’s meaning, it certainly is anticipating a gross want of attention in those who are to legislate upon this subject; for it cannot be supposed, that when

it comes to be fully discussed, all measures of future precaution against the recurrence of the disease will be neglected. Once cut off the present baneful source of contagion, and the means of preventing its revival will be simple and easy. We have already numerous models for this purpose on our Statute-books, which were framed for excluding from this country, other diseases of an infectious nature.

Thus much for the principle of a Bill, the object of which is single and precise, namely, “To prevent the spreading of the Infection of Small Pox,” which it is proposed to effect by the regulations contained in it, and such others as may be hereafter suggested.

So far, the matter stands before the public, as a question of policy, relative to the health and safety of the Community; there is no allusion whatsoever to any other topic; and I cannot help thinking, that it would have been more consistent in a grave objector to this intended Parliamentary regulation, had he simply reasoned upon its merits, and confined himself to the measure itself, with-

out adverting to subjects, with which it has no express or implied concern.

Instead of this, Mr. Highmore proceeds to infer that the Bill in question “is designed to promote Vaccination;” and thence takes an opportunity of expatiating upon that practice, which, he asserts, would be essentially injured, were this Bill to pass into a Law. Now, as there is not one word respecting Vaccination mentioned either in the preamble, or the enacting clauses of the Bill, I do not see that it is necessary at all to connect them; unless it be for the purpose of creating a friendly regard to the continuance of Small Pox, at the expence of Vaccination.

The Bill recites, that “Whereas the Inoculation of Persons for the Disorder, called the Small Pox, cannot be practised without the utmost danger of communicating and diffusing the infection, and thereby endangering in a great degree the lives of His Majesty’s subjects;” and it then proceeds, in its various clauses, to regulate this dangerous practice, under certain penalties, where there is any risk of communicating the contagion. Its object therefore is, like many other Acts of

Parliament, simply to correct a long existing grievance, which I have already pronounced, and will ever maintain to have been most injurious to the community.

How can such a measure then, have the effect of checking the progress of Vaccination? What! because you stay the poisoned lancet, and put a stop to disease, contagion, and death, by this Act of Parliament, will the public think less favourably of a preventive, which they have such ample reason to know, may for ever prevent the recurrence of so devouring a plague as the Small Pox? In my opinion, and in that of many others, perhaps more competent to judge, the very reverse will be the case; and Vaccination would be more encouraged, were the Small Pox entirely put down. Of this I am certain, that it would at least have a much fairer chance of success.

Mr. H. must be well aware, that since this discovery has been sanctioned by Parliament, nay, since it has been expressly recommended by the Royal College of Physicians, and every other Public Medical Body, together with all the respectable part of the Profession, an hospital originally de-

signed to “remove the difficulties of the Small Pox,” for a long time continued to hold out and dispense that horrible disease to all comers, making a merchandize of the life-destroying matter, and invading the dwellings of “the poor and industrious” with that contagion, which creates the very “anxiety and confusion” so feelingly described by Mr. Highmore; and unhappily, in this practice, the Hospital had numerous followers in different parts of the town, particularly in Berwick-street Soho, where the walls are placarded with an advertisement of the “*mild* Small Pox,” which promises rarely to kill the Patient, though it can with the usual facility communicate a truly mortal disorder to the neighbourhood.

With reference to this part of the subject, I cannot do better, than quote the words of the Royal College of Physicians, in their very able Report presented to Parliament last year, in which they express themselves thus: “It is from a consideration of the pernicious effects of the Small Pox, that the real value of Vaccination is to be estimated. The natural Small Pox has been supposed to destroy a *sixth* part of all

“ whom it attacks; and that even by Inocu-
 “ lation, where that has been general in pa-
 “ rishes and towns, *about one in three hun-*
 “ *dred* has usually died. It is not suffi-
 “ ciently known, or not adverted to, that
 “ nearly *one tenth*, some years more than
 “ one tenth, of the whole mortality in Lon-
 “ don, is occasioned by the Small Pox; and
 “ *however beneficial the Inoculation of the*
 “ *Small Pox may have been to individuals,*
 “ *it appears to have kept up a constant*
 “ *source of contagion, which has been the*
 “ *means of* INCREASING THE NUMBER OF
 “ DEATHS *by what is called the Natural*
 “ *Disease.* It cannot be doubted that this
 “ *mischief has been extended by the incon-*
 “ *siderate manner in which great numbers*
 “ *of persons, even since the introduction of*
 “ *Vaccination, are still every year inocu-*
 “ *lated with the Small Pox, and after-*
 “ *wards required to attend two or three*
 “ *times a week at the places of Inoculation,*
 “ *through every stage of their illness.*

“ From this then, the Public are to expect
 “ the great and uncontroverted superiority
 “ of Vaccination, that *it communicates no*
 “ *casual infection,* and, while it is A PRO-

“TECTION TO THE INDIVIDUAL, *it is not*
“ prejudicial to the Public.”

Impressed with these considerations, the Governors of the Small Pox Hospital, a few months since, abolished the inoculation of out-patients. This shocking custom, still, however, prevails to a great extent in some other parts of the town; and I mention the fact, in order to prove how little will be gained to Vaccination, while this is permitted by the Law. For Mr. Highmore must be aware, that the very fatality of the Small Pox, so uninterruptedly kept up, is in itself an argument, and creates a prejudice, against the Cow Pox, in the minds of the lower classes; who, seeing victims to the Small Pox, daily falling around them, draw an unfavourable conclusion as to the preventive powers of Vaccination; not stopping to consider whether these victims had resorted to it or not; for the poor and ignorant cannot nicely discriminate.

But, notwithstanding Mr. Highmore's protest against any Parliamentary enactments to prevent the infection of Small Pox, I augur favourably, as to the adoption of some prohibitory regulations, from the

very circumstance of the Small Pox Hospital having recently forbidden the Inoculation of out-patients there; and which had, from the time of Dr. Woodville's death, been carried on with such ardour.

In the list of Governors of that Hospital, there are not only many Members of both Houses of Parliament, but numerous other persons of great consideration and influence; many of whom needed only to be apprized of the above pernicious practice, instantly to give it their most decided opposition. One of them, possessed of the utmost benevolence and feeling, declared to me, that so long as it was continued, he considered himself as an accessory to murder, from the numerous deaths which it occasioned.

Mr. Highmore next proceeds to state, that a considerable inconvenience would result from the suppression of Variolous Inoculation, by its preventing such as have been vaccinated from resorting to the Small Pox, as a *test* of the efficacy of the Cow Pox.

This remark involves a prognostication by Mr. Highmore, with which I am much gratified; for it implies that, by the measure in contemplation, the *Virus* of Small Pox, that

burning lava, which, issuing from the volcano at St. Pancras, has destroyed so many human beings, will, ere long, become completely exhausted; and I deem this a concession, greatly in favour of those who have been labouring to put an end to the Small Pox.

Even if Vaccination did not exist at all, it would not be difficult to prove the impolicy of permitting Variolous Inoculation, without due security being taken against the communicating of the disease, by intercourse with others. Much more easy will it be to combat an argument of this sort, at a period when we have a preventive in Vaccination, which the Report of the College declares to have in some instances “subdued the epidemic Small Pox;” and which, from numerous other examples of the same kind, might very speedily be the means of totally annihilating that disease.

Mr. Highmore grants, that in the most favourable point of view, this practice of allowing Small Pox *tests*, will, to some extent at least, continually convey infection to others; this is a sufficient reason for abolishing them; and if, after ten years’ expe-

rience in Vaccination, such proofs of its security are necessary, they will be as much so a century hence.

However proper the Small Pox test might be, at the very commencement of Vaccination, for parental satisfaction ; yet, as the College of Physicians have now stated that “ the opinion that Vaccination affords but “ a *temporary security* is supported by “ no analogy in nature, nor by the facts “ which have hitherto occurred :” surely it is too great a concession to the morbid sensibilities of others, to continue the disease of Small Pox for the purpose of furnishing matter for these *tests*, and thus to keep up the fuel of a contagious malady to an indefinite period ; more especially as by these means also, doubt and anxiety, as well as disease, must necessarily be perpetuated, and the practice will be a never-failing engine, in the hands of any self-interested opponent of Vaccination, by which he can operate upon the fears and prejudices of the weak and the wavering.

In support of the alledged propriety of keeping alive the Small Pox, for preserving a supply of matter to furnish these *tests*,

Mr. Highmore makes the following appeal to the Committee of the House of Commons.

“ Now it is well known, that the epidemic
 “ of Small Pox returns in the metropolis
 “ every third or fourth year, with more or
 “ less violence ; and it is well known, to
 “ most of you, that the poor have been ac-
 “ customed, for many years past, to resort
 “ to the Small Pox Hospital at Pancras, for
 “ the Small Pox, in all its branches. It is
 “ also well known, that medical practi-
 “ tioners have continually resorted thither
 “ for charges of variolous, as well as of vac-
 “ cine virus. Now, if the first clause of
 “ this proposed Bill should ever become a
 “ Law, the medical officers of that useful
 “ Institution will not be able to receive any
 “ more patients *into the hospital* for inocu-
 “ lation, to inoculate them, and to retain
 “ them there during their indisposition ;
 “ they will not be enabled to give the above-
 “ mentioned *test* to the patients whom they
 “ shall vaccinate, either in or out of the
 “ hospital ; nor will other medical practi-
 “ tioners be enabled to give the like test to
 “ any of their own patients who have no

“ concern with that hospital, whether they
 “ procure variolous ichor there, or elsewhere.
 “ This defect in the course of establishing
 “ Vaccination, will be seriously felt, not
 “ more by them than by the Public, who
 “ will scarcely be persuaded to adopt it with-
 “ out; and the far more serious consequence
 “ will be felt still more severely when the
 “ next epidemic shall prove the trial of the
 “ present Vaccinations, which may, or may
 “ not, terminate in security.”

Perhaps the most satisfactory answer to
 this part of Mr. Highmore's remarks is con-
 tained in the following observations of the
 College of Physicians.

“ At the *commencement of the practice*,
 “ *almost all* that were vaccinated were *after-*
 “ *wards submitted to the Inoculation of the*
 “ *Small Pox*; many underwent this opera-
 “ tion a *second*, and even a *third* time, and
 “ the *uniform success* of these trials quickly
 “ bred confidence in the new discovery. But
 “ the evidence of the security derived from
 “ Vaccination against the Small Pox, does
 “ not rest *alone* upon those who afterwards
 “ underwent Variolous Inoculation, although
 “ amounting to *many thousands*; for it ap-

“ appears, from numerous observations com-
 “ municated to the College, that those who
 “ have been vaccinated are *equally secure*
 “ *against the contagion of the epidemic Small*
 “ *Pox. Towns indeed, and districts of the*
 “ *country, in which Vaccination had been*
 “ *general, have afterwards had the Small*
 “ *Pox prevalent on all sides of them with-*
 “ *out suffering from the contagion. There*
 “ are also in the evidence a few examples of
 “ *epidemic Small Pox having been subdued*
 “ *by a general Vaccination. It will not,*
 “ therefore, appear extraordinary that *many*
 “ who have communicated their observations
 “ should state, that though *at first they*
 “ *thought unfavourably of the practice,*
 “ *experience had now removed all their*
 “ *doubts.*”

As to the first part of Mr. Highmore's
 proposition, that the epidemic of Small Pox
 returns in every third or fourth year, with
 more or less violence, I am not qualified, nor
 am I disposed, to enter here into any minute
 discussion respecting *epidemics*; but as the
 notion is calculated to excite and continue
 alarm in the minds of many persons, I shall
 just remark that what is termed *epidemical*

Small Pox, is the result of a propagation of the disease by *intercourse*, and not from any peculiar state of the atmosphere. Dr. Haygarth, in his valuable publication on this subject, demonstrates this most clearly; and he observes that, during the prevalence of the epidemic Small Pox, were the atmosphere favourable to this propagation, the unprotected children of the rich, would be equally victims to it; whereas it rages principally among the poor, where there is a closer communication. It is an axiom of Dr. Haygarth “that mankind are not necessarily subject to the Small Pox. It is always caught “*by infection*, from a patient in the distemper, or the poisonous matter that comes “from the patient, and *may be therefore avoided.*” And he asserts that “consequently the Small Pox *may be prevented by keeping persons liable to the distemper from approaching within the infectious distance of the variolous poison* TILL IT “CAN BE DESTROYED *.”

* “Inquiry how to prevent the Small Pox,” page 99—107.

Now a little consideration would, I think, convince any one, that in proportion as you extend this distemper by Inoculation, you encourage, if you do not generate, the asserted *Epidemic*. Take as an instance, the late practice in the Small Pox Hospital: In 1802, the Vaccine was substituted for the Variolous Inoculation; and such was their truly laudable zeal for this new and admirable preventive, that with a sort of pious fraud, they administered it to many who inconsiderately preferred the Small Pox, and thought that they were receiving that species of Inoculation; so that between January and December 1802, only *Thirty-nine* out-patients were inoculated with Small Pox at that Hospital: and in the succeeding six months, but *ten* persons were so inoculated, making only *forty-nine*, in a year and half. This very soon produced a most evident effect on the mortality by that disease in London, for, in 1804, by this vast decrease of Small Pox Inoculation, and the proportionate increase of Vaccination*;

* In the Hospital Report of December 1802, signed by the Secretary, it is stated that, "the BLESSING of

only *six hundred and twenty-two* persons died of the Small Pox, whereas in the preceding year, there died *one thousand two hundred and two*.

By an unaccountable and fatal change in the councils and practice of the above Hospital, the Inoculation of out patients with Small Pox, was revived with such vigour, that, in 1805, *two thousand three hundred and thirty-eight* were thus inoculated. Now mark the result; in this year, in which this baneful system was thus extensively renewed by the Inoculation of two thousand three hundred and thirty-eight individuals, with the Small Pox, *one thousand six hundred and eighty five* persons fell martyrs to this disease, that is, an increase of *one thousand and sixty-three* deaths took place in one year.

“ VACCINATION, had been extended to 4290 persons
 “ in eleven months in the Hospital :” and the Report
 “ of June 1803, runs thus “ as only *ten* persons have
 “ received the *Variolous* Inoculation since January last,
 “ *this* practice at the Hospital, may be considered as
 “ GENERALLY SUPERSEDED by the *substitution* of the
 “ *Vaccine Inoculation*.

On the 19th of December in this memorable year, the principal medical officer of the Small Pox Hospital stated in his report “ that the Small Pox had been more “ *epidemic* in the metropolis than at any “ period since 1796.” This, I apprehend, is one of those epidemics which, according to Mr. Highmore, returns every three or four years ; and, although I am not a medical man, the ordinary understanding which I possess, enables me to infer from these facts, that, fatal as it was, this epidemic was manufactured at the Small Pox Hospital.

But unhappily, the hospital did not draw this inference: for the number of inoculated out-patients was in the next year, (1806,) increased to two thousand five hundred and sixty five ; and in 1807 this disease was communicated by inoculation to no less than *four thousand two hundred and forty-six patients*, who were turned loose in all directions of this great metropolis, and obliged by the rules, to attend several times at the Hospital with the disorder upon them.

Can any one figure to himself an evil of much greater magnitude than this? And, when he reflects on the contagious nature of this disease, need he look further, to trace the source of *Small Pox epidemic*, than to those *nine thousand one hundred and forty-nine* patients, inoculated and dispersed during the last three years, and like torches, lighting up the flame of disease in every quarter of the town?

I am aware that any one disposed to defend the Small Pox Hospital, may object to my inference by stating that, although the Inoculations there, in 1806 and 1807, especially in the latter year, exceeded those of 1805, the bills of mortality did not furnish a proportionable number of deaths by the Small Pox. I however think, this may be satisfactorily explained.

When an epidemic of Small Pox rages to an extent like that in 1805, it destroys so many subjects liable to this disease, that, however virulent it may be in the two succeeding years, it probably happens that the mortality will be comparatively small; especially as the numbers vaccinated, and other-

wise protected, during the same period, must also have an effect.

This may account for the asserted *periodical epidemics* mentioned by Mr. Highmore and others: that is, as the course of population produces new subjects for the Small Pox, where it is spread by Inoculation, or otherwise, they necessarily fall victims to it, if not protected.

It is true that this part of the practice has been within a few months prohibited by the Governors of the Small Pox Hospital; but there is no defined and positive law existing to prevent the revival of it, whenever any new revolution in the arrangements of the hospital may produce such a result; and, when it is known that great exertions were made by a few active individuals, to defeat the humane and patriotic endeavours of those members who wished to abolish the above system; and when legislative restrictions of a similar nature, are thus opposed, one cannot help feeling some anxiety, lest, at a future period, the Inoculation of out-patients should be renewed. Is it not high time, then, effectually to prevent this "resort of the poor

“ to the Small Pox Hospital,” however long accustomed?

It would be equally beneficial, in my opinion, were this hospital no longer allowed to be a depôt of variolous matter for any purpose; and it was with much satisfaction I lately heard, that this death-dealing fluid was nearly exhausted there.

Mr. Highmore further objects to the first clause of the Bill, because it will prevent the medical officers from receiving any more patients into the Hospital *for Inoculation*. So much the better: because the funds of the charity will then not be misapplied, in encouraging a prejudice in favour of Small Pox Inoculation: and the danger of infection now probably existing from the contaminated clothes and linen of those patients, when they are sent to their homes, and to those who apply for Vaccination at this Hospital, will be obviated. Indeed I should be glad to see that the same benevolent Governors, by whose means the Inoculation of out-patients was prohibited, would anticipate the legislature, and of themselves finish their praise-worthy work, by abolishing Inoculation at the Hospital altogether,

as much mischief is probably yet effected by the continuance of the practice, even in this qualified mode.

These measures, together with a restraining Act of Parliament, by which individuals may be prevented from spreading the disease by Inoculation, will, I have no doubt, completely relieve us from all apprehensions, as to any future *epidemic* of Small Pox *.

Mr. Highmore confesses himself under obligations, in his own family, to Vaccination; and expresses his opinion “ that the prejudices against it are ill founded:” with such

* I am further warranted in attributing *epidemics* in a great degree to the Small Pox Hospital, by the *effect* which the prohibition of Inoculation of out-patients has already produced. In the quarterly report of the Physician of the Carey-street Dispensary, dated August 31, he states as follows, “ The salutary effects of the interdiction of Variolous Inoculation, by the Governors of the Small Pox Hospital, are now conspicuous. Although the Summer is the season of the usual prevalence of the Small Pox, *no case has appeared at the Dispensary during the last three months.*” (See Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, Oct. 1.)

This cannot but be gratifying to the Governors, especially as this Dispensary embraces a wide district within a short distance from the Small Pox Hospital.

opinions I cannot avoid regretting that he should stand forth the advocate for continuing the Small Pox, or for leaving one germ or *nidus* by which its existence may be prolonged. But my regret is increased, by Mr. Highmore's observation, that the public will scarcely be persuaded to adopt Vaccination, without the opportunity of *testing* it by Small Pox matter, and more particularly his assertion; "that the far more serious consequences will be felt still more severely, when the *next epidemic shall prove the trial of the present Vaccinations, which may or may not terminate in security.*" Such an expression of doubt is not a little extraordinary, from one, who "bears testimony to the success of many thousand patients, who have received the Cow Pox, without ever having taken the casual disease afterwards;" and has himself seen the experiment of Small Pox tests, tried without any effect upon 2500 persons, who had been vaccinated at different periods. If this is not sufficient evidence, with the opinion of the College of Physicians, and that of nine tenths of the Medical Profession generally, upon this

part of the case, the same doubts may with as much propriety be entertained by our posterity, as by Mr. Highmore.

Besides, Mr. Highmore ought to have recollected that, except in 1804, the Cow Pox has, from the time of its first introduction, annually sustained the fiery ordeal of a Small Pox epidemic, especially of that in 1805, which, as I have already stated, the Physician of the Small Pox hospital declared in his Report, to be the most severe epidemic since 1796: and it was Mr. Highmore's lot to record the very report adverted to. The year 1805 alone, therefore, was a most triumphant one for Vaccination; for, although so much infection was then scattered by the Small Pox Hospital, by means of 2338 inoculated patients, and 1685 persons died of the Small Pox; great as the number of those who had been Vaccinated then was, I am not aware that any case of Small Pox after Vaccination occurred. On this ground, therefore, the want of Small Pox *ichor* by way of *test*, need create no alarm to Mr. Highmore or any one else.

The *test* of Variolous Inoculation was adopted by Dr. JENNER in the progress of

the investigations which led to his inestimable discovery ; and was candidly recommended by him, in the early part of the practice *. This probably suggested the criterion to Dr. Woodville ; and the fact mentioned by Mr. Highmore of so many thousand persons having been submitted to this test, in the midst of an hospital filled with the most infectious miasms of Small Pox, and yet resisting that disorder, is in itself an ample proof of the preventive powers of Vaccination, to every reasonable mind. But lest it should be supposed that this was doubted at the Small Pox Hospital, I must quote their opinion on this point, expressed in their report of December 1802, and signed by Mr. Highmore.

“ Eleven thousand eight hundred patients,
 “ and upwards, have been Vaccinated, of
 “ which number, about 2500 were after-

* “ In the present *early stage* of the inquiry (for
 “ early it certainly must be deemed), before we know
 “ for an absolute certainty, how soon the virus of the
 “ Cow Pox may suffer a change in its specific properties,
 “ after it has quitted the limpid state it possessed when
 “ forming a pustule, it would be prudent for those who
 “ have been inoculated with it, to submit to Variolous
 “ Inoculation.” Dr. Jenner’s Inquiry (1799), p. 115.

“wards *proved* to be secured from the na-
 “tural Small Pox, by receiving a further ino-
 “culation, according to the former practice,
 “which took *no effect*; a number *amply*
 “*sufficient to satisfy the public mind*, of
 “the *security and success of the new prac-*
 “*tice of Vaccination.*” The same experi-
 ment was also tried on a great number of
 the children at the Foundling Hospital, and
 at the Military Asylum, Chelsea, with equal
 success. Similar evidence might now be
 multiplied to an immense extent. Yet Mr.
 Highmore, although he thinks the pre-
 judices against Vaccination ill founded, is
 not himself satisfied, or rather, he is more
 than once at variance with himself; for he
 remarks, that Vaccination has not *invariably*
 proved a sufficient security “against the
 “subsequent contagion of Small Pox, and
 “some of its bad consequences;” and he men-
 tions “this fact with concern,” because it has
 afforded a basis for prejudice against it, which
 has considerably injured its progress.” And
 in the same sentence he says, “these pre-
 “judices must necessarily subside, as the
 “medical practitioners go on to subdue the
 “doubts and difficulties which occur; and in

“ this view, *I know of no greater advantage*
 “ to the general cause of Vaccination, how-
 “ ever grievous to the unhappy victim, *than*
 “ *the unsuccessful cases* which they have
 “ been called on to investigate.”

I must be allowed to say, that in all this there appears so great a mixture of pleasure and regret, of doubt and conviction, that it is difficult to decide which preponderates.

While, however, these alledged imperfections of Vaccination are thus held up to the light, let us not forget the aberrations of its predecessor the Inoculated Small Pox. Mr. Highmore, who has been more acquainted with the latter disease, than any man in the kingdom not medical, must be well aware, that, if in every case, Vaccination is not a complete security against the Small Pox, Small Pox has also frequently failed to be a protection against itself; and there are numerous instances of the recurrence of that disease in persons who had previously had it. As this fact may not be known to all Mr. Highmore's readers, I think he should in candour have stated it, and also that there have been “ unhappy victims” to *second* attacks of Small Pox;

whereas the College of Physicians, in their Report, inform us, that (after Vaccination) “ the Small Pox, in the few instances where “ it has subsequently occurred, has been generally *mild and transient*.”

The College also state, that “ amongst “ *several hundred thousand cases*, with the “ results of which the College have been “ made acquainted, the number of *alleged* “ failures has been *surprisingly small*, so “ much so as to form *certainly no reasonable objection to the general adoption of* “ *Vaccination*.” And I think it a circumstance worthy of the greatest attention, that, eager as the opponents and the calumniators of the practice have been, to discover a case of failure among the many thousands vaccinated by DR. JENNER, it does not appear that they have yet succeeded,

But Mr. Highmore also speaks of the “ bad consequences” of Vaccination. Let us therefore hear what the College of Physicians say on this part of the subject: “ The “ testimonies before the College of Physicians “ are *very decided* in declaring, that Vaccination does less mischief to the constitution, “ and less frequently gives rise to other dis-

“eases than the Small Pox, either natural
 “*or inoculated.*” And again, “in these
 “respects, then, in its mildness, its *safety*,
 “and its *consequences*, the individual may
 “look for the *peculiar advantages of Vac-*
 “*cination.*”

With so strong a testimonial before us, instead of making any concessions in favour of Small Pox Inoculation, attended as it is, in its best form, with so many domestic anxieties, it ought to be again and again impressed on our minds, that we have every thing in Vaccination, that the Inoculated Small Pox can afford, and that without any of its bad consequences.

I profess to write in order to counteract the effect of Mr. Highmore's objections to the stay of Small Pox Inoculation; and as he declares that the motives for this address “are those of an individual solicitous for the
 “advancement of Vaccination;” it is not necessary for me to enlarge upon the evidence in favour of that discovery; but, as he has sounded the alarm of compulsion as to the Cow Pox, I must again remark, that he is not warranted in this supposition, from the Bill before Parliament, or any

thing collateral to it. On the contrary, the worthy member who introduced it, satisfied the House that there was not the slightest intention of the kind. Had it been so, no sentiments in favour of Vaccination would ever induce me to become the advocate of such measures; and I think it right to take this occasion to state, that, from repeated conversations with DR. JENNER, I know he has been uniformly averse from any plans of compulsion, in regard to his discovery. Indeed, nothing could be more likely to retard its progress.

There is one point more, which I wish to advert to, and which I think extremely favourable to the plan of suppressing, and at length, entirely annihilating the Small Pox in these kingdoms; I mean the difficulty, if not impossibility, of ever hereafter *importing* it from abroad; and it is one of the strongest answers to the cavils which unfortunately have been stirred up among us, that on the immense continents of Europe and America, in Africa and in Asia, there is hardly a nook or corner where Vaccination has not been most cordially adopted, and where, in many large districts, it has not entirely

rooted out the Small Pox; and thus they contradict, on their parts, the assertion of Mr. H. “ that the world travel by a much
 “ more circuitous road, and by much slower
 “ stages, than the inventors and their zealous
 “ friends.” It is we only who travel thus, too regardless of the consequences.

Our Colonies*, however, have not manifested this *tour-like* disposition of their

* It is a curious fact, that the very reverse of this was the case, on the introduction of Inoculation for the Small Pox in 1721. For, in December of that year, Dr. William Douglas, an eminent physician at Boston in North America, in a letter on the subject of the new practice says, “ *Poisoning and spreading Infection,*
 “ *are, by the Penal Laws of England, Felony. Inocu-*
 “ *lation falls in with the first without any contradic-*
 “ *tion; and if a person of so weak a constitution that*
 “ *any, the least illness may prove fatal to him, should*
 “ *be inoculated, and suffer but the tenth part of what*
 “ *several of the Inoculated have done, he must inevi-*
 “ *tably perish, and his Inoculator be deemed guilty of*
 “ *wilful poisoning. Suppose only one in a thousand*
 (this is Mr. Highmore’s proportion) “ *should die of*
 “ *this method, it cannot with safety be practised without*
 “ *an Act of Parliament, exempting Inoculation by a*
 “ *sworn practitioner, from the penalties of POISONING*
 “ *and SPREADING INFECTION.”* Dr. D. then advises Mr. B. whose patient had died under inoculation, to take his trial, while there were so many “ in the humour

sluggish mother-country, described by Mr. Highmore. Instead of "travelling by a more circuitous road, and by much slower stages," than the inventor and his zealous friends, and thus sending in their long journey, many a fellow passenger, to that "country" "from whose bourne *no* traveller returns," they, setting a just value on even a single human being, whether a white or a black, mulatto or creole, have taken the *shorter* road to the preservation of their species. In India particularly, Vaccination has been immensely promoted, and with such success, that the Small Pox, the ravages of which were before so extended and fatal, is now a rare occurrence. Not a particle of its virus is there preserved, even for a *test*.

Notwithstanding all this, and a great deal more, which has been going on for nearly

"of Inoculation." Again, in a letter of April 27, 1722, Dr. Douglas says, "*Inoculation* in this place (Boston) "has much lost its credit, and does not go forward at "present. The Lower House or Representatives in Assembly passed a bill RESTRICTING THAT PRACTICE "UNDER SEVERE PENALTIES, *next to forbidding the* "same: but our Governor (a great stickler for *Inoculation*) with the Council, would not pass it till they "heard that practice was received in England."

ten years past, with such effect, Mr. Highmore, who admits that Vaccination has had "*astonishing success*," observes, that "the flower which is *forced* into a *too early maturity*, has neither strength nor fragrance comparable with that which blooms by fair and regular cultivation."

Now, if Vaccination be this flower, I answer, without the fear of contradiction, that after a cultivation of many, many years, it was presented to an admiring world, from the hand of Dr. JENNER, completely matured, perfect, and in full blossom.

Since that period I have never heard, that among the great multitude of able men who have practised it, any, the least variation has been made in administering this preventive. No new process, no new result.

Where, then, are we to look for this added "strength or fragrance?" But the Small Pox, it seems, is matured in "strength," however little "fragrance" it may possess; and we must be cautious not to pluck up this antient and deadly *Upas** by the roots, until we perceive, forsooth, some new varieties

* The Poison Tree of Java.

in the prophylactic Vaccine Tuberosa. This tenaciousness for the continuance of the Small Pox, I consider as not a little inconsistent in one, who acknowledges the great superiority of Vaccination; and I hope I have proved, that it is no longer necessary to allow this for any purpose, much less for that of giving *tests* by *inoculation*, when even the “*alleged* failures” of Cow Pox protection are declared by the Royal College to be “surprisingly small.” And in proportion as we lessen the spread of Small Pox, even this proportion, small as it is, must be diminished. Is it not then a cause of shame and sorrow, that we are still coldly observing in this metropolis, a weekly destruction of *twenty* to *thirty* of our fellow creatures by the Small Pox, besides the great number blinded and maimed by that disease? or, to borrow a figure from the benevolent author of Vaccination, “we perceive, as it were, our houses on fire, and, with buckets in our hands, stand idly gazing on the flames*.”

* Letter from Dr. Jenner to Dr. Lettsom. See Dr. Lettsom’s Observations on the Cow Pox. (1802.)

Mr. Highmore, however, feels himself "bound by every principle of gratitude to "acknowledge" the success of Vaccination in his own family.

I too, have my obligations to the Cow Pox, and with heartfelt gratitude, acknowledge that I have five healthy witnesses of its beneficent and preserving powers, whom, from long and attentive observation, I could fearlessly expose to the most contaminated interior of the Small Pox Hospital. I had also some experience before this discovery, in others of my children, as to the progress of the inoculated Small Pox; and I appeal to every parent, who, like myself, has undergone the anxious feeling for his infants, struggling through it, affected with a foul eruption, and can now contrast with it the pleasure in beholding the gentle, though protecting course of the Cow Pox; whether it is not enough to ensure his ardent wishes for the success of such a cause.

It is possible, that in thus expressing myself, I may be enrolled in the list of zealots: Be it so. It is at least a pardonable zeal to wish that others should adopt that which will preserve them from the most destructive

of all contagion; and with the conviction which I entertain, I am contented to receive the appellation. My opinions are formed upon *facts*, not on *hypotheses*; upon ocular observation, not upon the report of others.

I have seen much of the practice, and perused almost all that has been urged for and against it, and with the vast preponderance in its favour, find it impossible to entertain the slightest doubt.

Indeed, this is no longer a question of fair controversy; it is a point settled and determined in a full court of Medical Judicature; not of England alone, but of Europe, Asia, America, and Africa. “From Indus to “the Pole” there is not now a civilized country or state, as I have before observed, that has not felt and acknowledged the blessings of Vaccination.

But without any other evidence, I should be satisfied to take my stand, upon the Report of the Royal College of Physicians, the most learned medical body in the world, required by their Sovereign, on the request of the Legislature, to sit in judgment, and give their solemn opinion on this important subject.

Illustrations of this plain question are really almost superfluous; but I cannot abstain from asking, whether, if one of our children had been exposed to the infection of a fever highly contagious, and an attack was dreaded in consequence, we should not, on the opinion of a *single* Physician, promptly apply any prescribed preventive, without enquiry as to its properties or effects. Surely therefore, a principle of duty imposes upon us, the adoption of a simple preventive of so mortal a disease as the Small Pox, when it is not only sanctioned, but *advised* by the respectable part of the Medical Profession: particularly, by the Royal College of Physicians in the following words *: “ From the whole of the above
“ considerations, the College of Physicians

* It ought to be remembered that, great as is the weight due to these sentiments of the Royal College of Physicians, they receive additional force from the circumstance of their Report being founded, not only upon the experience of their own very numerous body; but also on the evidence of the Colleges of Physicians of Dublin and Edinburgh, the Colleges of Surgeons of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin; of Societies established for Vaccination, and of a vast number of individual practitioners in the medical profession.

“ feel it their duty, *strongly to recommend*
 “ *the practice of Vaccination.* They have
 “ been led to this conclusion, by no pre-
 “ conceived opinion, but by the most un-
 “ biassed judgment, formed *from an irre-*
 “ *sistible weight of evidence which has been*
 “ *laid before them.* For when the number,
 “ the *respectability, the disinterestedness,*
 “ and the *extensive experience of its advoc-*
 “ *cates,* is compared with the feeble and im-
 “ perfect testimonies of its *few opposers;*
 “ and when it is considered that *many,* who
 “ were once adverse to Vaccination, have
 “ been *convinced by further trials,* and are
 “ now to be ranked among its warmest sup-
 “ porters, *the truth seems to be established*
 “ *as firmly as the nature of such a question*
 “ *admits.*”

Wherefore then have we any longer occasion or motive, for nurturing and continuing the Small Pox upon our Island, for the purpose of “ tests,” which Mr. Highmore tells us must necessarily keep the infection on foot?

On the contrary I repeat that, inasmuch as it is our duty, as well as our interest, to adopt the means of mitigating those evils to which humanity is subject, no exertion ought to be left untried, to eradicate this plague.

The very object of the intended Act of Parliament is, to effect this purpose ; that is, to prevent the Inoculation of Small Pox where there is danger of spreading the infection,—to separate the diseased from the healthy*, and thus check the progress of contagion—and in short to “ destroy the variolous poison” altogether. This would be no Herculean task ; and even the anxiety of Mr. Highmore implies that it may be accomplished ; for he tells us, that if we go on with the anti-variolous Act, we shall soon have no Small Pox matter, to work into the system of our infants by way of *test*. What ! not one “ unhappy victim” touched with the destroying blotch, from which

* It was by adopting such measures, that the leprosy and the plague were driven from this country, by means of regulations, then, perhaps, thought rigid, though time has sanctioned the wisdom of our early Legislators, in thus cutting off the sources of these contagious maladies. See the antient writ “ *de Leproso amovendo*,” also 2 James I. c. 31. and some Royal Proclamations, stated in “ A Letter to the Right Honourable Spencer “ Perceval,” by Sir Charles Edmund Carrington, late Chief Justice of Ceylon : which contains a very able and eloquent appeal to the Legislature, on the expediency of suppressing Variolous Inoculation.

some eager lancets might be tipped? Oh happy days! What a triumph over the grim Tyrant! What an amazing increase in our population, and in the vigour and beauty of our rising progeny!* Why then, we shall have no longer any occasion for a Small Pox Hospital; but, like that at Ceylon, a building of this description may become devoted to some other purpose†.

I repeat that my doctrine, in regard to Vaccination, is persuasion, not force. Not so with the Small Pox, which, I conceive, ought to be put down by law.

Every infant born is the child of the State: and, however extensive parental power

* It has been estimated by the late Mr. Dawson, an eminent Mathematician, that in a population of eight millions, if the Small Pox were extinguished, the increase of inhabitants in ten years would be at least 323,000; and in sixty years 1,340,899!

† Mr. Christie, Chief of the Medical Staff at Ceylon, has stated, that the mortality and dread of the Small Pox in that Island were so great, as to depopulate whole villages, and *one third* of those attacked by the casual disease *died*: but by the happy introduction and encouragement of Vaccination, under the Governor, the Honourable F. North, the disease was so completely subdued, that the Small Pox Hospital there became useless, and was converted into a Barrack!

and influence may be, it is a known rule of our law, to restrain that power, and prevent its being exercised to the injury or destruction of our offspring. Having therefore a safe and mild preventive against the Small Pox, by means of Vaccination, and that too, *advised* by the learned medical body to whom we referred the case, I cannot see upon what principle of reason or right, it can *now* be argued, that we are entitled to compel our infants to undergo a disease, from which they must at all events, suffer greatly; and which MAY DESTROY them *. The relation between parent and child never extended to this: and it might as well be urged that if a sect existed here, who like the idolaters of old, for the supposed benefit of their souls, were “to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech †,” we ought not to interfere with

* During the last two years, within the sphere of my own acquaintance, several parents who had been induced unhappily to prefer the Small Pox Inoculation, to the Cow Pox, have sustained the severe loss of the little sufferers; and in one of these instances, an *only child* was thus offered up, a victim to an ill-founded prejudice against Vaccination.

† Jeremiah, chap. xxxii. ver. 35.

the shocking prejudice. Every day therefore, that we indulge this alleged parental right of choosing the destroying Small Pox for our progeny, at this period, when a safe substitute has been discovered, we are, in my opinion, sanctioning an act, prohibited by divine and human laws.

A great part of the world beside, is already, by means of Vaccination, freed from the Small Pox; and if they pursue their efforts as strenuously as at present, they will probably ere long be totally exempt from that disorder: in this case, the country which gave the antidote to other nations, will soon become the only depositary, in which the original poison is to be found, unless we adopt an efficient plan for its destruction. In one point of view, this will manifest a want of feeling, and will be disgraceful; in others it will affect our commercial interests: for all the countries, with whom we have any intercourse, will be under the necessity of adopting the most rigid quarantine regulations, in order to prevent the introduction of what may then be aptly termed the “British Pest,” lest the younger part of their

population, who may not have been vaccinated, should fall victims to our neglect*.

As an unqualified objector to the Small Pox in any shape, I have felt it my bounden duty to offer these remarks. The Bill, with proper modifications, cannot fail to be of essential service to the population, the health, and I may add, the morals of the country; for, as it has been somewhere observed, any prevalent and fatal disease, like the Small Pox, produces a degree of despair in the habitations of the poor, which has frequently the effect of paralyzing their exertions, and of driving them to habits of a most pernicious tendency.

I have already said, that, as the Bill is still subject to enquiry and alteration, it is unnecessary here to enter into objections to particular points of regulation; as to these, Mr. Highmore has stated some opinions;

* In the Appendix will be found some very striking facts, respecting the progress of Vaccination in foreign countries; in some of which, I believe that the Inoculation of the Small Pox is very wisely forbidden: but there is not any evidence to warrant the supposition, that any coercive measures have been resorted to abroad for promoting the Cow Pox.

and far be it from me to oppose any disposition to profit of his suggestions.

Perhaps enough may be done ere the Bill is passed into a Law, to obviate his scruples on this head. At all events I earnestly hope that the Legislature, impressed with the immense importance of this subject, in mercy to their country, which has been so long drained of its population, and in pity to individual feeling, which has been so constantly wounded by this cause, will by efficient enactments “prevent the spreading of the infection of the Small Pox:” and that they will be cordially aided by the medical profession, so conspicuous for their humanity; and by whose benevolent co-operation in this plan, the Small Pox might be soon wholly exterminated. On this ground, I am certain, we should have nothing to apprehend from dissatisfaction of any kind, much less from Mr. Highmore’s terrible denunciation of a “discontent far worse than that of a Wat Tyler, or the worst ferments in the worst of times.” For even, should a few obscure and unfeeling practitioners, who at present draw no small emolument from the Small Pox, and live by encouraging this disease,

still raise a senseless cry in its favour, and continue to calumniate Vaccination ; a very little experience must convince the poor, as well as the rich, the peasant, as well as the peer, of the vast advantages derived from prohibitions, which would soon crush the scorpion that has been too long cherished amongst us. And to reverse the gloomy prophecy of Mr. Highmore, in those days the “ public tranquillity,” instead of being “ disturbed,” will be secured ; “ female terror,” “ female agony,” and “ female panic,” so far from being “ roused and awakened,” will be eradicated from the “ maternal bosom ;” for then no one will have the power to carry to the habitation of others, a mortal contagion : and deprived, as the Small Pox will then be, of its numerous innocent victims, there will no longer be a voice heard, “ *Lamentation and weeping,* “ *and great mourning, Rachel weeping for* “ *her children because they are not.*”

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

DR. JENNER, having frequently favoured me with the perusal of his Foreign Correspondence, and permitted me to take extracts; I avail myself of this opportunity of subjoining the following, in corroboration of some facts advanced in the preceding pages.

This is the more gratifying, as it enables me to do away any impression, made by a printed paper, industriously circulated among the Members of the House of Commons, on the 9th of June last, insinuating that Vaccination had not been so extensively and successfully practised abroad as was represented.

Extract from a Letter of GEORGE KEIR, M. D. Superintendent General of Vaccine Inoculation at Bombay, to DR. JENNER, dated December 18, 1806.

“The governments in India have shewn every anxiety to disseminate the new Inoculation; and in all these Presidencies, there are regular establishments for the purpose. I may merely mention our plan at this place, which will enable you to

judge of the whole. Our Governor *, from the moment your discovery was known, formed the humane resolution of securing to India so great a blessing ; and after many disappointments and much anxiety, we at last succeeded. In the compilation sent to you, I have endeavoured to trace its progress to Bombay, and from hence to the other parts of India. I hold the appointment of Superintendant of Vaccine Inoculation at Bombay : my duty is to transmit to out-stations supplies of virus, in case of the disease being lost. I generally inoculate about two hundred every month. At the subordinate stations the Surgeons stationed there are also entrusted with keeping up the disease ; and each receive a small monthly allowance : their reports are transmitted to the Medical Board, who frame a general return, which is published monthly under the sanction of Government. We have ten subordinate stations ; and our returns in the Courier are from three to five thousand monthly."

"I am called on to frame, in June next, a General Report of all that has been accomplished : we shall then have had the disease for five years, and I think the numbers inoculated cannot be under two hundred thousand, probably however three hundred thousand. *In no one instance under my own care (and I have vaccinated nearly twenty thousand) has there been one unfavourable symptom ; if I except in three or four cases suppurations of the glands in the arm-pits, and these did well. At the Presidency, as well as all the stations, the disease preserves its peculiar and genuine character, as*

* The Honourable Mr. Duncan.

detailed by you; nor has there been one circumstance which can lead us to apprehend any change in future. We are now so satisfied on this subject, that we have long laid aside all our fears of losing it. I need scarcely mention, that the disease has, in many thousand instances, been put to the test of Variolous Inoculation, and exposure to the contagion of the natural disease."

"On this Island the Small Pox was annually epidemic. Since the introduction of the Vaccine, it has done but little mischief, and *for the last three years has not even appeared*; indeed I am sorry for this, for such is the apathy and indolence of the Asiatic character, that an evil a little removed is seldom attended to, or feared. I feel frequently the effect of this; for, when soliciting and urging parents to bring their children to my station, they tell me, 'Why fear *Atala* (Small Pox)? Your disease has driven it away, and we have nothing to fear. If Small Pox again appears, we will all come to you at once.' If this reasoning be foolish, it would be difficult to produce so strong a testimony of their confidence in the preventative efficacy of the new discovery."

"The mortality from the visitation of the Small Pox in any district in this Country is much indeed beyond what you can imagine in Europe. It is certain that on a favourable computation *one in three die* of Small Pox in this country. Indeed the mortality at certain seasons, and under certain circumstances, *is frequently more than half*; that is, when one hundred are seized with this loathsome disease, *fifty perish*! Even the inoculated Small Pox proves a serious disease here: independently of the common objections that are fairly urged against

the practice of spreading more widely the contagion, our experience in this settlement has led us to conclude that *one child in fifty is lost.*"

"It is equally idle as foolish, my attempting to draw even a comparison, when I reflect I am addressing you; but I have seen so much of the horrors of the one, and the happy mildness and security of the other, that I have been led into a larger detail than I intended."

"I think we may, without a fear of objection, infer that at least *Fifty thousand have been already saved by the new Inoculation under this Presidency*; and the same has followed, I conceive, under the other Presidencies, in the same proportion that their numbers exceed ours."

"I cannot but take the liberty of offering to you my sincere congratulations, on the pleasing feelings that must be yours, on reflecting on the triumph of your discovery over all opposition. I have had Rowley's pamphlet, and the other treatises connected with, or occasioned by his: it is difficult to guess what could have led to such a controversy. We are unwilling to ascribe unworthy motives to any man; but in Asia we can judge for ourselves; and we are satisfied in possessing an antidote as we have proved in thousands of cases, which, without risk, or scarcely inconvenience, perfectly secures the individual from one of the most loathsome and afflicting scourges humanity is subject to."

Extract from a Report of the State and Progress of Vaccination by A. MACKENZIE, M. D. Superintendent General of Vaccine Inoculation. Dated, Fort St. George (Madras), 1st September, 1807.

“ *The extirpation of Small Pox from the British Dominions, which appears to constitute the ultimate object of the exertions of Government to diffuse Vaccine Inoculation, has been materially assisted at this Presidency by the active measures which have been adopted to prevent the communication of Small Pox infection ; and the circulation of treatises on Cow Pox, in the language of the country, explanatory of the benefits, propagation, and treatment, of the Vaccine Disease. To the happy effects that have resulted from the circulation of these publications, the Superintendents in the interior attribute their progressive success ; and I consider it of infinite importance to remark, that, notwithstanding the variolated state of the atmosphere, the unusual ingress of poor from neighbouring countries, and the circumstances that have concurred to protract the duration of Small Pox, to a period hitherto unknown ; I have not been able, on the most minute enquiry and investigation, to attach a single case of Small Pox infection to an individual duly vaccinated.*”

This Report is followed by a return of the number vaccinated in the above Presidency, and at the subordinate Vaccine Stations, from the 1st September 1806, to the 31st August 1807, and signed by Dr. Mackenzie.

These are as follow :

Christians, male and female,	-	-	24,246
Hindoos, ditto,	-	-	200,394
Mahometans, ditto,	-	-	18,535

243,175

Vaccinated in the same Presidency
between Sept. 1802 and Sept. 1806 607,895.

Total number vaccinated at Madras and its subordinate Presidencies in five years, independently of those vaccinated by the Brahmins and other natives	}	851,070
- - -		

In BENGAL, also, Vaccination has made a most successful and extensive progress, as appears by the Reports published by John Schoolbred, Esq. and of Dr. William Russell, his successor, Superintendents General of Vaccine Inoculation at that Presidency.

Dr. C. E. Weigel, of Stralsund, in Swedish Pomerania, in a Letter addressed to Dr. Jenner, dated July 1807, stating the rise and progress of Vaccination in that country, observes that "at Grieswald the children who had been Vaccinated the preceding year, had been inoculated with the Small Pox *without producing any effect*; and elsewhere, not a single instance has occurred of those who had been vaccinated being seized with the Small Pox."

And he concludes with this remark, "The mortality produced by the Small Pox during the last four years that preceded the introduction of the Vaccine amounted to five hundred, and has been diminished in the following four years, (that is from 1801 to 1804, during which we

made use of Vaccination) to *sixty* persons, the greatest number of which occurred in the year 1802, when Vaccination was yet but little practised. At the end of the year 1804 near seven thousand persons had been vaccinated. I have not seen the Registers of the last two years; but I am sure that the result drawn from them would be still more favourable to Vaccination."

"In Sweden and Finland Vaccination has been generally introduced; and continues to be practised."

Extract from a Letter of DR. JAMES SMITH, of Baltimore (Maryland), to DR. JENNER, dated 14 May 1807.

"As it must be gratifying to every philanthropic mind to hear how far the important advantages which it has pleased God the human race should derive from your inestimable discovery, have been extended to distant countries; I feel it a duty incumbent on me, while I claim the honour to have been the first who succeeded in communicating it effectually in this part of the United States, to make you acquainted with its introduction into this city, and with the progress we have made in the art of securing ourselves from our old enemy the Small Pox."

"On the 1st day of May 1801, I performed my first successful Vaccination in a public institution."

"From this case I continued to propagate it to others for several months: I then inoculated them repeatedly with variolous matter, carried them into infected houses, and exposed them in contact with persons labouring under the natural as well as inoculated Small Pox; *they were all found to be secure, and perfectly unsusceptible*

of its contagion. The publication of these experiments soon occasioned us to adopt the Kine Pock in this city. It has now also been adopted in every part of the United States: and I believe already extends to an unknown distance among the Indian Nations who inhabit that immense tract of continent which lies beyond the Mississippi, and between the boundaries of the United States, and the shores of the Pacific Ocean."

"The Small Pox used formerly to be introduced by inoculation into this city every Spring, and consequently carried off every year a great many victims to its rage. *We have, however, now banished this monster, by unfurling the protecting banners of the Jennerian Discovery.*"

Striking Instance of the salutary effects of Vaccination, communicated by A. V. H. TELLEGEN, M. D. of Groningen, in the United Provinces.

"Although we have reason to pride ourselves on the success Vaccination has experienced in this country, it nevertheless appears, that now and then some few children fall victims to the natural Small Pox; that such unfortunate objects should attract our notice, and induce us to shed a tear of pity, is very natural, especially when it is considered that the negligence of their parents was certainly instrumental to their death; but, however deplorable this state of things may be, I can, however, by no means concur in the assertion that this negligence proceeds from a culpable prejudice against Vaccination; for my own part, I am rather induced to suppose, that the omitting of Vaccine Inoculation is more to be ascribed to a want of con-

viction, and consequently to ignorance, than to mere vulgar prejudice.

“ As examples are always more persuasive and efficient than arguments or moral strictures, I thought it would not be unserviceable to make the public acquainted with some facts, which, in my course of practice, have come immediately to my own knowledge, whence the public may judge how far Vaccination is entitled to general patronage and adoption. After having, in the course of last year, inoculated about twenty-five children at Elde and Paterswalde, in the department of Drenthe, with Vaccine matter, the natural Small Pox made its appearance last winter at both these places as usual; they soon became extremely virulent, several children suffered severely, three died of the distemper, and one lost its right eye, while the above-mentioned twenty-five children who were vaccinated, *remained free from all contagion* during the whole of the time that this disease raged there with such virulence: this circumstance naturally attracted the notice of the inhabitants; many parents were induced to have recourse to Vaccination, and in the course of a fortnight, one hundred and fifty children of different ages were brought to me for that purpose, and the consequence happily was, that the further progress of the natural Small Pox, which threatened the most serious and fatal effects, was not only immediately arrested, but even (if I may be allowed the expression) so completely exterminated, that since that period, *not one child has died, or otherwise suffered by this dreadful disorder.* In order to shew that I have not overrated its beneficial effects, I here subjoin the following certificate.

“ I do hereby certify, that the above number of children belonging to the districts of Elde and Paterswalde, and in which number I may also include one of my own, have been vaccinated by A. V. H. Tellegen, M. D. at Groningen, with that happy and salutary effect that they have thereby entirely escaped the contagion of the natural Small Pox, which raged here with so much violence during the course of last winter.

Elde, June 6, 1808.

P. SPECKMAN,

Minister of the Gospel at Elde.”

“ The proofs which this city (Groningen) affords of the happy effects and power of this Inoculation are of no less importance. The number of persons inoculated with Vaccine matter may be fairly estimated at about 3000; many of them were afterwards again inoculated with the Small Pox; others have eaten, slept, and have been continually kept with children who actually at the time had the natural Small Pox, without any one of them having hitherto caught the infection. During the last two years, the natural Small Pox has sometimes made its appearance in some parts of this city; but the disorder is wholly confined to such persons as have hitherto not received the benefit of Vaccination: as a proof of the truth of this treatment, I shall only mention that hitherto no person has applied to me for the premium (ten ducats) which I two years ago offered for every child, who, after having regularly gone through the process of Vaccination, should afterwards take the natural Small Pox, or should have died in consequence of the Vaccine Inoculation: I take this opportunity to repeat the offer I made at that time, provided sufficient proofs are given that such child or

children were regularly vaccinated in this city by a person well acquainted with the process of Vaccination, and that such person does certify that the pustule proceeding therefrom was in every respect genuine."

"Heaven grant that every true Philanthropist, and especially every magistrate, minister, or schoolmaster, as well in town as in country, would use his influence to recommend and give every degree of publicity to this invaluable preventive, revealed as it were by Heaven for the benefit of the human species; by such means, how many parents and children would be preserved to society!"

Medical Journal, Oct. 1808.

Extract from a Letter of DR. LEWIS SACCO, Director of Vaccination at Milan, to DR. JENNER, dated Trieste, January 5, 1808.

"I hope this letter will reach you safely. I am here on my return from Istria, where I have been for the purpose of disseminating the blessing of Vaccination. During eight years, I reckon more than 600,000 * by my own hand, and more than 700,000 others vaccinated by my deputies in different departments of the kingdom. I assure you in a population of six millions, to have vaccinated 1,300,000 is a great deal to say; and I flatter myself that in Italy, I have been the means of promoting Vaccination in a degree, which no other country in the same extent of population has equalled."

* Dr. Sacco was some years since appointed by the French Government, Superintendent General of Vaccination, for all that part of the Cisalpine Republic.

“ In our largest towns since Vaccination has been generally practised, the *Small Pox* has *entirely disappeared* : and even in Milan, where the infection of Small Pox, year after year, committed such ravages, *we have not for some years past seen this disease*.

“ These are facts sufficiently decisive to silence all opposition, and to annihilate envy.”

I give no particular communications from France ; because it is well known that in the year 1800, various institutions were formed for promoting Vaccination throughout that country, under the protection of the Government *. And upon the authority of an American Gentleman of the highest respectability lately arrived from Paris, after a residence there of several years in an official capacity, I am enabled to state, that there is no relaxation whatever, in the zeal for disseminating the Cow Pox ; and that the mortality by Small Pox is thereby greatly reduced.

* See Letter of Chaptal, Minister of the Interior, to the Prefects, dated Paris, 14 Germinal, an. xii.

Medical and Physical Journal, vol. XIII.

*** While this last sheet was at press, I have had an opportunity of perusing the following letter from a Surgeon in the country, to the Medical Resident of the Royal Jennerian Society ; and which I have permission to publish.

I apprehend that it would be difficult to furnish a stronger reason for an Act of Parliament

to regulate and prevent the spreading of the Small Pox, than the fact contained in this letter. And I must add, that to my knowledge, other similar accidents, though not attended with such fatal consequences, have occurred.

“ SIR,

“ An unpleasant and extraordinary circumstance has rendered it necessary that I should trouble you with this letter. About a fortnight since a family requested me to vaccinate them, as they were going to leave the town. To save time I obtained a supply of *ichor* from some medical men in the city of ———, where the Small Pox now prevails very much, and an unaccountable mistake was made: the lancets were armed *with variolous ichor*: and the family I inoculated are full of Small Pox! *one is now dead*: several families of consequence have been exposed to the contagion, and must necessarily share a similar fate, if a period is not put to its mischievous effects by a timely application of the Vaccine.

“ I shall therefore feel myself extremely obliged if you will supply me immediately with some *ichor*; if you can, enough for at least twenty persons. In great haste,

I am, Sir,

Your obliged and obedient servant,

Nov. 9, 1808.

&c. &c.”

THE END.

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